

most exhaustive tests have been made. All of the individual trees in this county that received a vigor rating of 10 are, with one exception, growing at elevations below 2,400 feet. All that received a rating of 9 are below 3,100 feet. All ratings of 4 are above 5,100 feet, and all ratings of 3 are above 6,300 feet. The trees of varying degrees of medium vigor are scattered over the central part of the county. From the viewpoint of reforestation, probably the most important of all vigorous trees revealed by the test, is one growing at an elevation of 3,700 feet, which received a vigor rating of 10. This one tree may prove to be the starting point of a new race that is both vigorous and hardy. Likewise of interest is a tree having a rating of 8 and growing at an elevation of 4,700 feet, where winters are severe. In connection with our progeny test experiment, marked differences have also been noted in the characteristics of cones, seeds and seed-wings of individual trees of the same species growing side by side in the forest.

The results have only recently become available and there has been little opportunity to ascertain the reasons for the conditions that exist. One of the simplest explanations is that the differences may be strictly a result of water supply, only the individuals that are inherently vigorous being able to survive the long dry season at the lower elevations. Temperature also may play a part.

The speaker illustrated his very lucid presentation by pictures, charts and models, and demonstrated a successful method of recording graphically the results of experiments. Altogether the lecture proved most interesting and instructive to his auditors. Seventy-five members and guests were present at the banquet and evening lecture.

DEATH OF DR. HARVEY MONROE HALL

It is the custom of the Carnegie Institution of Washington to hold an annual conference in December for the purpose of discussing reports of investigators on its staff and considering plans for future work. Dr. H. M. Hall, Associate in the Division of Plant Biology, went to Washington from Stanford University for this meeting in mid-December, 1931, and to deliver a lecture on "Environment versus Heredity", in connection with the program of lectures. Shortly before this lecture was to have been delivered he was taken ill, and his condition became increasingly serious. Three operations for abdominal abscess were resorted to in succession in an effort to save his life but without avail. He continued to sink and died Mar. 11, 1932.—W. L. J.

NOTES AND NEWS

On Thursday, December 10, 1931, a meeting of the California Botanical Society was held in Room 2093, Life Sciences Building, University of California. The paper of the evening was by Mr. H. L. Mason, Department of Botany, University of California, who gave an illustrated lecture upon "Collecting Plant Fossils on the Alaska Coast," with an account of the early spring vegetation of Alaska, the discovery of fossil redwood on St. Lawrence Island, native life and customs in the far north and the encounter of the ship *Northland* with the Arctic